

## Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 DPW-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 /154 W

----- 030568

R 181110Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO AF MPC RANDOLPH AFB TEX

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7046

CDR JCRC NKP

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CSAF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 8567

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: BRIEFING GIVEN BY GENERAL VANG PAO

REF: (A) AFMPC 132355Z DEC 73 (NOTAL)

(B) VIENTIANE 7187 (NOTAL)

1. INFORMATION REGARDING PW STATEMENTS MADE BY  
GENERAL VANG PAO REQUESTED REF (A) AS FOLLOWS: ON  
OCTOBER 17, 1973, AS REPORTED REF (B), EMBASSY ARRANGED  
FOR GENERAL VANG PAO TO BRIEF VISITING NATIONAL LEAGUE  
OF MFAMILIES DELEGATION. DURING QUESTION AND ANSWER  
PERIOD, GENERAL VANG PAO WAS ASKED IF HE BELIEVED THAT  
THE LPF OR NVA WERE HOLDING ANY MORE AMERICAN PW'S IN  
LAOS. HE STATED THAT THERE WERE DEFINITELY NO AMERICAN  
PW'S IN MILITARY REGION II EXCEPT EMMET KAY AND HE  
DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT THERE WERE ANY OTHER AMERICAN PW'S  
BEING HELD ANYWHERE IN LAOS. HE WAS THEN ASKED IF  
THE NVA COULD POSSIBLY BE DETAINING ANY MORE AMERICANS.  
GENERAL VANG PAO RESPONDED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, THE  
NVA MAY POSSIBLY STILL BE HOLDING SOME AMERICAN PW'S  
IN DRV -- BUT THAT "IS JUST MY OPINION." IN RESPONSE  
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TO FURTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS POSSIBILITY, GENERAL

VANG PAO STATED THAT THE NVA MAY CONTINUE TO HOLD AMERICAN PW'S TO EXPLOIT THEIR TECHNICAL EXPERTISE OR ELSE SOME AMERICANS MAY REMAIN VOLUNTARILY BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN "BRAIN-WASHED." HE WENT ON TO STATE THAT IF THE NVA STILL HELD AMERICAN PW'S THEY (THE NVA) WOULD NOT RELEASE THEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND THE ONLY SURE WAY THAT THE USG COULD SECURE THEIR RELEASE WOULD BE TO "BOMB HANOI AND KILL THE CURRENT NVA LEADERSHIP."

2. GENERAL VANG PAO DID POINT OUT ON THE MAP AREAS IN MILITARY REGION II WHERE HE THOUGHT SOME U.S. PILOTS MAY HAVE BEEN CAPTURED. HE ALSO CONFIRMED INFORMATION, OBTAINED FROM THE DEBRIEFS OF THE TEN RELEASEES IN LAOS, TO THE EFFECT THAT U.S. PW'S CAPTURED IN LAOS WERE QUICKLY TAKEN OVER BY NVA AND MOVED TO DRV PRISON CAMPS FOR INTERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: DURING BRIEFING, GENERAL VANG PAO CONVERSED ALTERNATELY IN LAO, FRENCH AND ENGLISH -- CONSEQUENTLY, THE TRUE MEANING OF SOME OF HIS STATEMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN LOST IN TRANSLATION. REFERENCE HIS "BOMB HANOI" STATEMENT, HE USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS HIS CONTEMPT FOR COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP IN SEA TO A HIGHLY RECEPTIVE AUDIENCE. EMBASSY HAS NO FACTUAL INFORMATION WHICH WOULD SUPPORT GENERAL VANG PAO'S PERSONAL OPINION RE POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL U.S. PW'S IN DRV. THERE IS NO WAY GENERAL VANG PAO COULD HAVE OBTAINED SUCH INFORMATION ON HIS OWN.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MOPS, PFOR, LA, LEAGUE OF FAMILIES, (VANG PAO)  
**To:** n/a  
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